

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JACK ANDERSON STORY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, WASHPOST, HEADLINED "ISRAELIS BLAMED FOR SYRIAN STALEMATE."

2. AT A SECRET WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER RECENTLY COMPLAINED THAT ISRAEL COULD HELP PREVENT A MIDDLE EAST EXPLOSION "BY BEING MORE FLEXIBLE.,

3. HE CHARGED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD JEOPARDIZED THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE THEY WOULDN'T GIVE UP ANOTHER SIX KILOMETERS OF ARAB LAND.

4. "WHAT IS SIX KILOMETERS," HE DEMANDED, "AGAINST THE RISK OF WAR?...WE WERE SET BACK BECAUSE OF SIX LOUSY KILOMETERS."

5. KISSINGER'S REMARKS WERE MADE TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS
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WHO GATHERED BEHIND CLOSED WHITE HOUSE DOORS FOR A FOREIGN-

POLICY BRIEFING. THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES CONFIRM OUR DEC. 17 REPORT THAT THE SENTIMENT IN THE BACKROOMS OF WASHINGTON IS TURNING AGAINST ISRAEL.

6. PRESIDENT FORD BEGAN THE MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSION BY STRESSING THE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES. ALL HIS ADVISERS AGREED, HE SAID, "THAT UNLESS SOME PROGRESS IS MADE, THE CHANCES OF WAR ARE VERY GREAT."

7. IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN, HE WARNED, "WE CAN LOOK FOR ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO" AND THE "LIKELY POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIETS."

8. THEN KISSINGER TOOK OVER.

9. IN SOME OF THE MOST BLUNT LANGUAGE HE HAS EVER USED IN FRONT OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, HE BLAMED ISRAEL FOR THE STALEMATE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA.

10. "ISRAEL HAD A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR A WEST BANK SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN'S (KING) HUSSEIN," KISSINGER EXPLAINED. ISRAEL'S FAILURE TO DEAL WITH HUSSEIN, THE SECRETARY CONTENDED, LED THE ARABS TO RECOGNIZE THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. NOW THE ISRAELIS MUST DEAL WITH THE PLO'S HATED YASSER ARAFAT, WHO HAS BEEN DIRECTING TERRORISTIC WARFARE AGAINST THEM.

11. THIS IS MORE THAN THE ISRAELIS CAN STOMACH. BUT BECAUSE THEY WON'T DO BUSINESS WITH ARAFAT, THE SYRIANS HAVE BALKED IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH KISSINGER. THIS HAS "STYMIED" HIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO PEACE, HE SAID, "ON THE SYRIAN FRONT."

12. WE ARE LEFT WITH MOVEMENT TOWARD (EGYPT'S PRESIDENT) SADAT," KISSINGER REPORTED, "IN HOPE WE CAN KEEP UP THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH." HE ADDED HOPEFULLY THAT THERE IS "STILL A CHANCE FOR EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATION."

13. "ISN'T THERE DANGER," ASKED REP. ELFORD A. CEDERBERG (R-MICH.), "OF EROSION OF U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL?"

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14. KISSINGER RESPONDED, ACCORDING TO THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES, BY ASKING A QUESTION. DO THE ISRAELIS "CONFUSE READINESS OF THE U.S. TO GIVE AID," HE INQUIRED SIGNIFICANTLY, "WITH READINESS OF THE U.S. TO GO TO WAR?"

15. "I DON'T THINK SO," INTERRUPTED SEN. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY (D-MINN.), A STAUNCH FRIEND OF ISRAEL.

16. "THE ISRAELIS AND THEIR FRIENDS HERE," SAID KISSINGER, "NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE RISK OF WORLD SOLIDARITY AGAINST ISRAEL." HE CAREFULLY EXCEPTED THE UNITED STATES FROM THE GROWING ANTI-ISRAELI BLOC.

17. "I TELL THEM," RESPONDED HUMPHREY, "YOU'VE GOT TO TRUST US. YOU'VE GOT TO TRUST DR. KISSINGER. A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE BY ISRAEL WOULD BE A COLOSSAL MISTAKE AS REGARDS THE UNITED STATES. THEY MUST TRUST US..."

18. "I'M MEETING WITH ABOUT 15 JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS," PRESIDENT FORD BROKE IN. "I'LL SAY ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE SAID. THEY SHOULD TRUST US. IF THERE'S A WAR AND THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, THERE'S FEAR OF AN ANTI-ISRAEL MOVEMENT IN THE U.S. WE'RE HERE TO GUARANTEE THEIR INTEGRITY, BUT THERE MUST BE TRUST ON THEIR PART."

19. "THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR THINKS HIS COUNTRY WILL JOIN US IN A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AND A JOINT GUARANTEE OF PEACE IN THE AREA," REPORTED SEN. J.W. FULBRIGHT (D-ARK.), THE OUTGOING SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.

20. THIS WOULD MEAN ABANDONING THE STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS AND GOING TO GENEVA FOR EXPANDED PEACE TALKS, WARNED KISSINGER.

21. "NO ARAB THERE WILL MAKE A CONCESSION IN FRONT OF THE OTHERS," HE FEARED. RECOGNITION OF THE PLO, HE ALSO WARNED, WOULD BECOME "THE FRONT ISSUE, BLOCKING ANY OTHERS."

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22. "FOR THE SOVIETS TO REALLY HELP," KISSINGER SUGGESTED, "THEY WILL NEED FIRST TO HELP MOVE THE ARABS TOWARD REASONABLE POSITIONS. IF (THE SOVIETS) TAKE THE EXTREME ARAB POSITION AND THEN ASK US TO SELL THAT TO THE ISRAELIS, WE'RE IN TROUBLE."

23. IN CASE THE MIDDLE EAST SHOULD GO UP IN FLAMES AGAIN, SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN C. STENNIS (D-MISS.) SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT FURNISH ISRAEL WITH ARMS BUT NO MANPOWER.

24. "YES," AGREED PRESIDENT FORD. "AND WE'VE TOLD THEM THAT THERE'S A POINT WHERE WE HAVE TO CONSIDER WHAT THE AMERICAN POSITION WOULD BE."

25. "THERE'S A LIMIT TO THE MONEY," GRUMPED HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GEORGE H. MAHON (D-
TEX.).

26. "THE ISRAELIS FEEL THAT MONEY AND ARMAMENTS ARE
EASY TO COME BY," SAID THE PRESIDENT. "I AGREE THERE'S
A LIMIT." (END TEXT). SISCO

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